

Page 70, line 3, delete “solution” and insert in its place --aspect of the invention--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1, line 3, change “difference” to --different--; and

line 13, before “being” insert --in another connection configuration--.

Claim 2, line 5, change “the other” to --another--.

Claim 5, line 3, change “difference” to --different--; and

line 11, before “being” insert --in a second connection configuration--.

Claim 10, line 7, change “power lines” to --a power line--.

Claim 15, lines 4-5, change “in any” to --to interconnect a--;

line 5, delete “said plurality of”; and

line 15, after “other”, insert --one--.

16. (Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit device according to claim 15, wherein
[a group of elements including a plurality of either said active elements in the first connection

configuration,] said active elements in the second connection configuration[, or] and said active elements in the third connection configuration are arranged to sandwich or surround said active element in the first connection configuration.

Claim 20, line 3, change “difference” to --different--.

24. (Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit device according to claim 20, wherein said static area includes a partial region of an active element on a transmission side of said active elements in the first connection configuration connected to said inter-circuit signal wire, said partial region being connected to a power line of said internal circuit associated therewith, and an active element in another connection configuration having an identical or similar structure to said active element in the first connection configuration on a reception side, [and] said active element in another connection configuration being arranged near said active element in the first connection configuration, [said active element in the other connection configuration] and being isolated from signal wires other than said inter-circuit auxiliary wire.

Claim 25, line 2, change “the other “ to --another--.

Claim 26, line 5, change “the other” to --another--.

Claim 30, lines 4-5, change “in any” to --to interconnect a--;

line 5, delete “said plurality of”;

change “the other” to --another-- in each occurrence on lines 8, 9, and 16;

and

line 20, after “other”, insert --one--.

31. (Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit device according to claim 30, wherein [a group of elements including a plurality of either said active elements in the first connection configuration,] said active elements in [the other] another connection configuration[, or] and said active elements in the further connection configuration are arranged to sandwich or surround said active element in the first connection configuration.

Claim 32, line 5, change “other” to -another--.

Claim 35, lines 4-5, change “in any” to --to interconnect a--;

line 5, delete “said plurality of”;

change “the other” to --another-- in each occurrence on lines 8, 9, and 16;

and

line 20, after “other”, insert --one--.

36. (Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit device according to claim 35, wherein [a group of elements including a plurality of either said active elements in the first connection configuration,] said active elements in the other connection configuration[, or] and said active elements in the further connection configuration are arranged to sandwich or surround said active element in the first connection configuration.

Claim 37, line 5, change “the other” to --another--.

40. (Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit device comprising:
a plurality of internal circuits arranged internally in a circuit forming region, said internal circuits having [difference] different power lines;
a plurality of input/output circuits arranged outside said internal circuits;
a plurality of external connection terminals outside said input/output circuits;
a signal wire passing through an input/output circuit [in] belonging to one of a plurality of sets each comprised of [any of] at least one said internal [circuits] circuit and [any of] at least one said input/output circuit, said plurality of sets each being connected to respective common power lines, said signal wire reaching [said] an internal circuit [included in] belonging to the same set

as said input/output circuit through which said signal wire passes, said signal wire originating
from [any] one of said external connection terminals;

a branched wire branched from said signal wire and passing through [said] an
input/output circuit [in any other set] belonging to another one of said plurality of sets, and
reaching [said] an internal circuit [in] belonging to the same set as said input/output circuit
through which said branched wire passes;

a first protection circuit for said signal wire arranged in said input/output circuit of said
one set [for said signal wire];

a second protection circuit for said branched wire arranged in said input/output circuit in
said another set [for said branched wire]; and

a third protection circuit for said branched wire arranged in said internal circuit in said
[other] another set [for said branched wire].

44. (Amended) A semiconductor integrated circuit device according to claim 40, wherein
[either] at least one of said first, second [or] and third protection [circuit] circuits includes an
active element connected to a power line of an associated input/output [circuit] or [an associated]
internal circuit, and isolated from any signal wire.